

**The Gulf, Mattawoman, Barlow, Jacobus, and Hungars Creeks Implementation Plan Development Public Meeting Feb 27, 2014**

**Location:** The Barrier Island Center, 7296 Young Street, Machipongo VA 23405

**Start:** [6:30 PM]  
**End:** [8:30 PM]

**Meeting Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Work Group (Ag., Res., Gov.)</b>
John McLeod	DEQ	5636 Southern Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA 23462	Gov.
Jennifer Howell	DEQ	5636 Southern Blvd. Virginia Beach, VA 23462	Gov.
Jian Shen	VIMS	1208 Greate Rd, Gloucester Point, VA 23062	Academic
Mac Sisson	VIMS	1208 Greate Rd, Gloucester Point, VA 23062	Academic
Cole Channock	ESS WCD	22545 Center Parkway Accomac, VA 23301	Local Gov.
Sara Reiter	ES RC+D	P.O Box 442 Melfa, VA 23410	Local Non-profit
Janice Felker	Landowner	P.O. Box 689 Eastville, VA 23347	Residential
Rick Felker	Landowner	P.O. Box 689 Eastville, VA 23347	Residential
Rosemary Rathz	Landowner	P.O Box 542 Eastville, VA 23347	Residential
James Hopper	PTG	P.O Box 81 Eastville, VA 23347	Agriculture
Rick Hubbard	Landowner	P.O Box 326 Eastville, VA 23347	Agriculture/Aquaculture
David Kabler	Blue Heron Reality	10352 Church??? Rd. Machipono VA 23405	Residential
Susan Mastyl	Landowner	P.O. Box 118 Harborton, Va 23389	Residential
Sue Rice	?	4462 Wilsonia Neck, Machipongo Va 23405	Government
Carol Upshar	Landowner	13586 Solitude Trail, Machipongo VA 23405	Agriculture/Aquaculture
Arthur Upshar	Landowner	13587 Solitude Trail, Machipongo VA 23405	Agriculture/Aquaculture
Ralph Dodd	Farmer	P.O. Box 158 Eastville, VA 23347	Agriculture
Richard Davis	Kuzzens Inc.	3769 Grapeland Circle, Exmore VA	
Steve Sturgis	Landowner	P.O. Box 178 Eastville, VA 23347	Agriculture/Aquaculture
Tatum Ford	CBF	P.O. Box 77 Quinby, VA 23347	Non Profit
Jay Ford	Shorekeeper	P.O. Box 77 Quinby, VA 23348	Non Profit
Tina Jerome	NRCS	22545 center Pkwy. Accomac, VA 23301	Gov.
WT and Dora-Weston Wilkins	Landowner	14184 Yeardeley Rd, Eastville VA 23347	Agriculture/Resident
Mark Newman	Farmer	7386 Machipongo VA 23405	Agriculture/Resident
Eugene Hampton	Landowner	6078 Harbortown Rd., Machipongo Va 23405	Agriculture/Resident
Chip Dodson	Landowner	P.O. Box 8 Eastville, VA 23347	Agriculture/Resident

**I. Agenda Item: Purpose of Meeting –What is an Implementation Plan? - DEQ**

- 1. Discussion:** A power point presentation was utilized to explain the purpose of the meeting and demonstrate how and why the original TMDL documents were developed for the watersheds studied. The power point also provided a detail review of the TMDL Implementation Plan development process and the various roles that the stakeholders can play in the development process.
- 2. Discussion:** DEQ contractors from the Virginia Institute of Marine Science discussed the model used to calculate the bacterial reductions required, and how changes in the Virginia Health Department sampling techniques will affect the required reduction from the various potential sources of bacteria.
- 3. Discussion:** Introduce the purpose of the various work groups and explain how these groups will help direct the TMDL implementation plan.

\*\*\*Question received during this presentation are provided below.

Q: Why not use a blanket approach with BMPs when addressing waters which are so close in proximity and similar in quality?

*Response: Most BMPs will be the same across the watersheds, especially education programs such as Pet Waste removal. However, it will also be necessary to identify specific locations of things such as failed septic in order to get funding, etc.*

Q: Does the watershed boundary for the VDH-DSS Sanitary Shoreline Survey differ from the TMDL watershed boundary?

*Response: It may differ some based on what delineation was used to create the boundary.*

Q: Looking at the new methodology VDH-DSS now uses and how it has affected the current loads and load reductions needed in the TMDL, why didn't the allowable load change as well?

*Response: The allowable load is based off the water quality standard for either the geometric mean or 90<sup>th</sup> percentile.*

Q: Does VDH-DSS measure only for fecal coliform? What about speciation using genetic testing?

*Response: VDH-DSS samples for fecal coliform. VADEQ has used the BST-ARA method in previous years to help differentiate bacteria loads into groupings. However, that methodology is not trustworthy and is no longer used. Newer methods using genetic analysis are quite expensive and tend to be more qualitative than quantitative.*

Q: How are contributing source loads calculated? What are some sources required to have more % reduction than others?

*Response: Currently accepted procedures for calculating the source loads are by using literature sources as well as local knowledge. Those include: population census, ag statistics, sewer vs non-sewered areas, veterinary stats, resident and transient wildlife populations, information from the PDC, county, SWCD, VDH, NRCS, citizens, etc... Depending on what contribution the source has in the watershed will determine how much of a reduction is needed to meet the TMDL. Human source loads are required to have 100% reduction. Other controllable loads such as livestock and pets will have greater reductions than those that cannot be easily controlled, such as wildlife.*

Q: County ordinances will not allow for certain alternative septic systems. How will that affect the IP?

*Response: Expert advice from the county will be needed.*

Q: Has poultry litter application been considered in these watersheds?

*Response: Litter application in this area is quite rare. Fields that do apply must have a NMP and adhere to guidelines set within. Also, poultry litter is not considered a significant source of bacteria.*

Q: Will there be coordination with the development of the IP and integrating other nutrient load reduction plans?

*Response: While this IP is not focused on nutrient reductions, but bacteria reductions, actions that are done on the ground to remove bacteria will also benefit to remove nutrients as well. Tracking of BMPs and other actions will be an integral part of the project and how it relates to other plans.*

## **II. Agenda Item: Form Residential and Agriculture work groups and begin discussing possible BMPs, suitable restoration sites, and constraints to BMP implementation in the watershed.**

**Note: The group did not want to split up during the breakout session and remained as a single mixed agriculture/residential work group.**

**\*\*\*Comments from the combined residential/agriculture work group are provided below.**

Constraints with Ag BMPs

1. Change cut-off dates to work with crop rotation. Ex) cover crop planting needs to be done before soybeans are removed = conflict. Get other examples
2. Need more incentive to plant cover crop
3. Need to see how BMPs related to volume, sediment and geese population will reduce bacteria loads

4. Maintaining productive crop land with adding buffer strips around the edge to reduce runoff
5. Land rental fees still have to be paid even when cost-share is used when land is taken out of production. Can cost-share go directly to the landowner?
6. If a farmer makes too much \$\$, they are not eligible for cost-share
7. Ag ponds, maintenance, and other BMPs have wetland conflicts

#### Identify Alternate Funds

1. NRCS and SWCD were represented at the meeting
2. NMPs available by those required

#### Measureable Goals

1. Find out how much of the watershed is buffered
  - a. Buffer type?
  - b. Use GIS and ground-truth
  - c. Identify cost-share funded land
2. Identify where buffers are required: Nutrient BMP, CBPA, etc
3. Roadside ditches – both local owned and VDOT regulated
  - a. Look at maintenance and buffers (Ag Extension)
4. Residential areas not buffered. Need funding for living shorelines
5. Placement of retention ponds for runoff from fields prior to entering creek

#### Residential

1. The A-NPDC is in the process of getting a grant to identify the number of outhouses in Northampton Co.
2. Can the number of septic systems be pinpointed in the IP watershed Need VDH input.
3. Get info related to pump outs, enforcement, records, notices, shoreline survey info
4. Shoreline Buffers: What can be done with bulkheads? Ways to rectify & plant above/around it. Camp Occohannock Project
5. Septic pump out companies: can they supply info for number of pump outs, failures, gallons removed
6. Counties do not enforce 5-year pump out requirement
7. Code expansion needed in residential area for water reuse and alternate waste options

#### Education

1. Pet waste
  - a. Scoop the poop program
  - b. Info at local events, kennels, SPCA, Eastern Shore animal hospital, vet offices
  - c. Pet waste stations – need it to be seen in residential areas
2. Septic pump outs
  - a. Pump out notices in mailers (county tax...)
  - b. “Special” deals with pump out companies